

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 EB-11 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 DRC-01

STR-08 /138 W

----- 117876

R 051612Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7892

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 2687

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IV

SUBJECT: LANG AFRIQUE: SECOND SUGAR COMPLEX IN IVORY COAST

REF: ABIDJAN 1245

1. LANG AFRIQUE LOCAL REP ANDERSON INFORMED E/C CHIEF THAT GOIC (MINFIN BEDIE, MINPLAN DIAWARA AND MINAG SAWADOGO) HAS SIGNED LETTER OF INTENT REQUESTING LANG TO NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH SODESUCRE FOR SECOND SUGAR COMPLEX. NEW COMPLEX WILL BE SIMILAR TO LANG-CONSTRUCTED REFINERY AT FERKESSEDOUGOU: 60,000 METRIC TONS REFINED SUGAR, (NOT 40,000 TONS AS REPORTED REFTL, 60,000 HECTARES IRRIGATED CANE. LANG HAS ALREADY WORKED UP DOLS 80 MILLION PROPOSAL FOR ENTIRE PROJECT.LANG

WOULD DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT REFINERY, AND SUPERVISE REMAINDER OF PROJECT

LONHRO, MANAGEMENT CONTRACTOR FOR FIRST SUGAR PROJECT, WOULD ONLY BE CONSULTANT FOR SECOND PROJECT.

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2. REGARDING TIMETABLE FOR COMPLETION OF FERKE SUGAR REFINERY,ANDERSON

STATED CRUSHING WOULD LIKELY BEGIN END MAY; LANG IS TRYING TO COMPLETE SOONER IF POSSIBLE. IF CRUSHING DOES NOT BEGIN UNTIL END MAY, LANG COULD BE ASSESSED MAXIMUM DPLS 700,000 PENALTY. HOWEVER, ANDERSON ATTRIBUTES COMPLETION SLIPPAGE TO DISRUPTION OF SHIPMENTS OF NECESSARY MATERIALS. SINCE THIS IS DUE TO ENERGY CRISIS, AND THEREFORE BEYOND LANG'S CONTROL, ANDERSON BELIEVES GOIC WILL NOT PRESS TO OBTAIN PENALTY PAYMENT.

3. SODESUCRE DIRECTOR GENERAL KIGBAFORO REPORTEDLY WANTS THE REFINERY TO BEGIN OPERATION BY MAY 1 IN ORDER THAT IVORY COAST WILL NOT HAVE TO BUY ADDITIONAL SUGAR ON WORLD MARKET. KIGBAFORO IS CONCERNED THAT IF RAINS BEGIN IN NORTH BEFORE CANE CRUSHING STARTS, CROP CANNOT BE PROCESSED BECAUSE OF INCREASED WATER CONTENT AND WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN STANDING UNTIL SUFFICIENTLY DRY FOR PROCESSING.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY CERTAINLY PLEASED THAT LANG, IN SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN REALIZING FERKESSEDOUGOU SUGAR PROJECT,HAS STILL PERFORMED IN SUFFICIENTLY SATISFACTORY MANNER THAT GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH LANG FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND SUGAR COMPLEX. LANG REPS APPARENTLY PLAYED HEAVILY ON FACT THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED FROM THEIR MISTAKES CAN REALIZE SECOND PLANT WITH MINIMUM OF DIFFICULTY. IN VIE SAHEL DROUGHT, WHICH ALSO AFFECTS NORTHERN REGION OF IVORY COAST, EMBASSY HOPES RAINS COME AT APPROPRIATE TIME AND IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES; HOWEVER, LET'S HOPE CANE IS CRUSHED BEFORE THEN.
SMITH

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